

# BLACKFORD COUNTY, INDIANA

## *Highlights*



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# Blackford County, IN Highlights

## Introduction

The first edition of the *County Highlights* was published in 1993. Lillian Miles, then Labor Market Analyst for the Gary Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area, originated the idea for this descriptive area publication.

*Highlights* are now a web publication and, as a result, the data can be updated throughout the year, not just on an annual basis. These *Highlights* are available in easy-to-use web format but are also printable and e-mailable and provide a snapshot of critical population and workforce statistics for each of Indiana’s 92 counties, 11 Economic Growth Regions, and the State of Indiana.

Each *Highlights* includes an overview of the demographics and workforce of an area, from its population to the size of its labor force and the industry mix of jobs and wages.

Don’t hesitate to contact your regional analyst, Sharon Ringenberg (260-469-4217) if you need further information about your area.



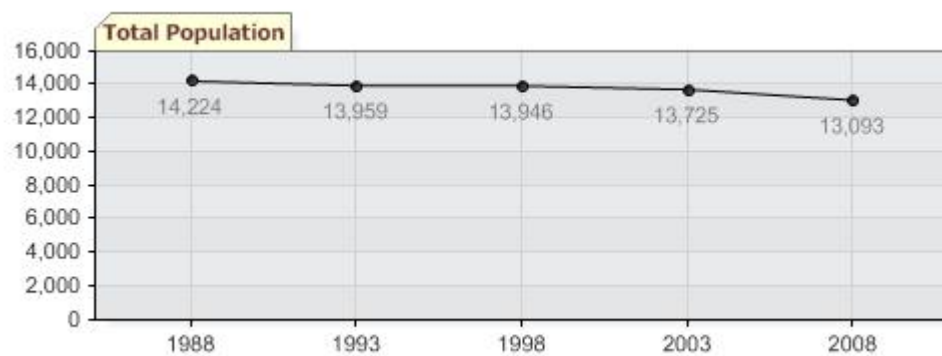
## Location

Blackford County is located in east central Indiana. The county is bordered on the south by Delaware County. Jay County is adjacent to Blackford County on the east, Wells County to the north, and Grant County to the west. Blackford County is one of the nine counties located in the area designated by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development as Indiana Economic Growth Region 6.

## Population

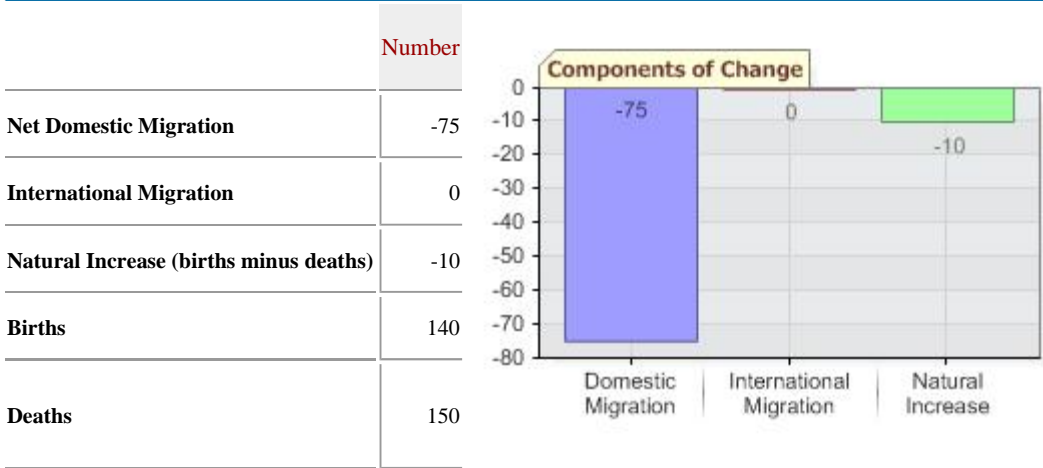
A region's economy thrives or dives because of the people who choose to live there. That choice may occur by being born there and desiring to stay, or a more deliberate one of choosing to relocate from somewhere else. Monitoring change in the size and movement of population is an important barometer of well-being. Some of us monitor these changes as an insect might gauge the shifting sands while most don't pay much attention. But the barometer is a good metaphor for population change since it can presage more notable events, such as lackluster business attraction due to lack of workers.

Population Over Time					
	1988	1993	1998	2003	2008
Total Population	14,224	13,959	13,946	13,725	13,093
Change Since 1988		-265	-278	-499	-1,131
Pct. Change Since 1988		-1.9%	-2.0%	-3.5%	-8.0%



Source: US Census Bureau

### Components of Population Change 2007 to 2008



Source: US Census Bureau

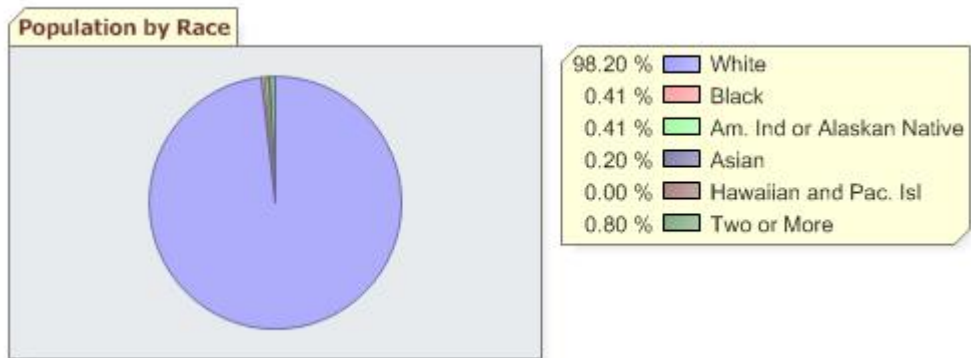
### Population Estimates by Age in 2007

	Number	Pct. Dist
Preschool	723	5.5%
School Age	2,252	17.1%
College Age	858	6.5%
Young Adult	3,478	26.4%
Older Adult	3,710	28.1%
Older (65 plus)	2,168	16.4%

Source: US Census Bureau

### Population Estimates by Race and Hispanic Origin in 2007

	Number	Pct. Dist
American Ind. or Alaskan Native Alone	54	0.4%
Asian Alone	26	0.2%
Black Alone	54	0.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pac. Isl. Alone	0	0.0%
White Alone	12,950	98.2%
Two or More Race Groups	105	0.8%



## Hispanic or Latino

Non-Hispanic or Latino	13,071	99.1%
Hispanic or Latino	118	0.9%

Source: US Census Bureau

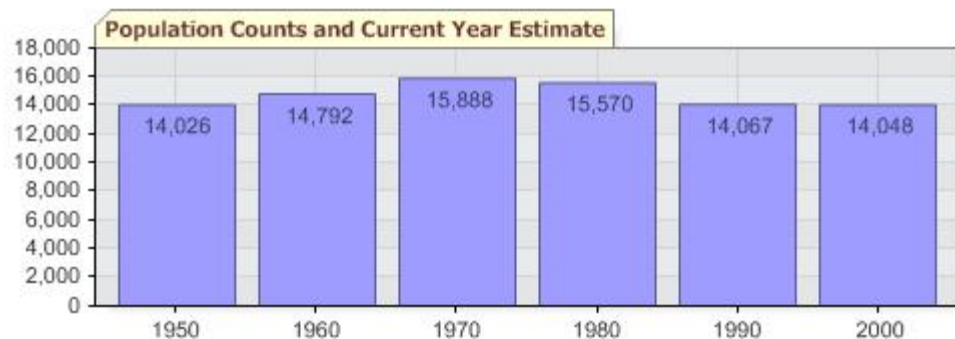
## Households in 2000

	Number	Pct. Dist
<b>Total Households</b>	5,690	100.0%
Family Households	4,029	70.8%
Married with Children	1,264	22.2%
Married without Children	1,967	34.6%
Single Parents	488	8.6%
Other	310	5.4%
Non-family Households	1,661	29.2%
Living Alone	1,472	25.9%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.46	
<b>Average Family Household Size</b>	3.48	

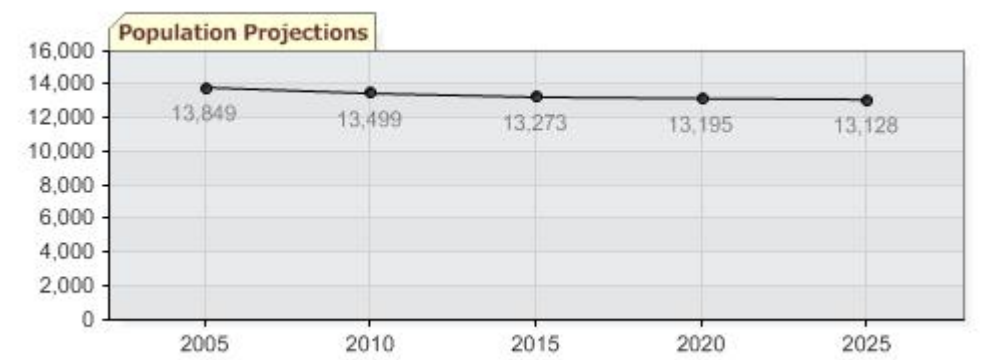
Source: US Census Bureau

## Population Counts by Decade and Current Year Estimate

	Population	Numerical Chg.	Pct. Chg.
1950	14,026	NA	NA
1960	14,792	766	5.5%
1970	15,888	1,096	7.4%
1980	15,570	-318	-2.0%
1990	14,067	-1,503	-9.7%
April 2000	14,048	-19	-0.1%
2007	N/A	N/A	N/A



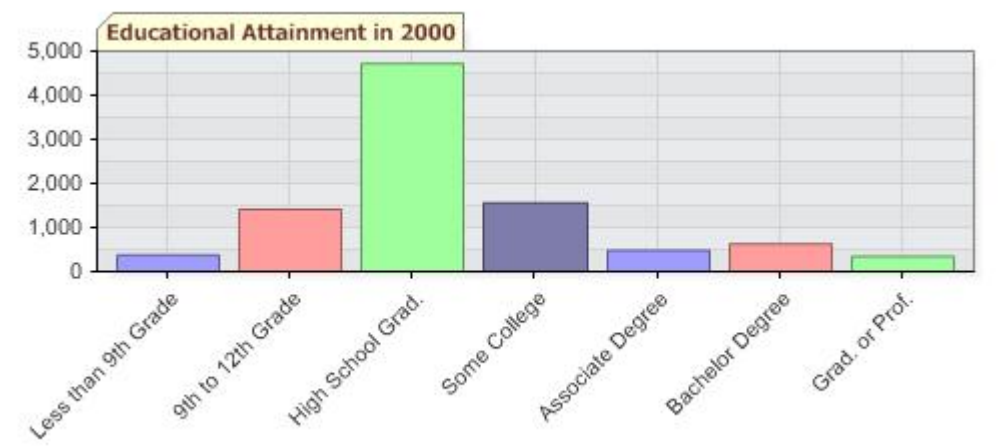
Population Projections					
	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Population Projections	13,849	13,499	13,273	13,195	13,128
Change Since 2005		-350	-576	-654	-721
Pct. Change Since 2005		-2.5%	-4.2%	-4.7%	-5.2%



## Education

The level of education of our workforce is a critical factor for economic and community development. It often provides insight into the skill levels of a local area. The metrics provided here focus on the attainment of degrees and high school graduates' higher education intent. The type of work (occupations) residents perform can also assist in understanding skill levels.

Educational Attainment				
	1970	1980	1990	2000
Total Population 25 and Older	8,667	9,237	9,259	9,550
Less than 9th Grade	2,329	1,634	835	376
9th to 12th, No Diploma	1,869	1,770	1,666	1,413
High School Graduate (incl. equiv.)	3,416	4,526	4,454	4,727
Some College, No Degree			1,102	1,567
Associate Degree			374	487
Bachelors Degree			418	634
Graduate or Professional Degree			410	346

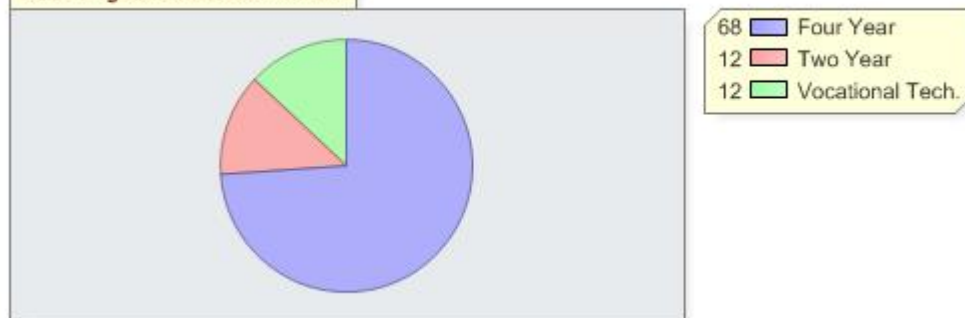




## High School Graduates Going on to Higher Education

	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Total Graduates</b>	133	135	131	131
<b>Total to Higher Education</b>	83	82	96	92
<b>Four-Year Institution</b>	55	40	62	68
<b>Two-Year Institution</b>	19	3	23	12
<b>Vocational/Tech.</b>	9	39	11	12
<b>Military</b>	4	7	4	11

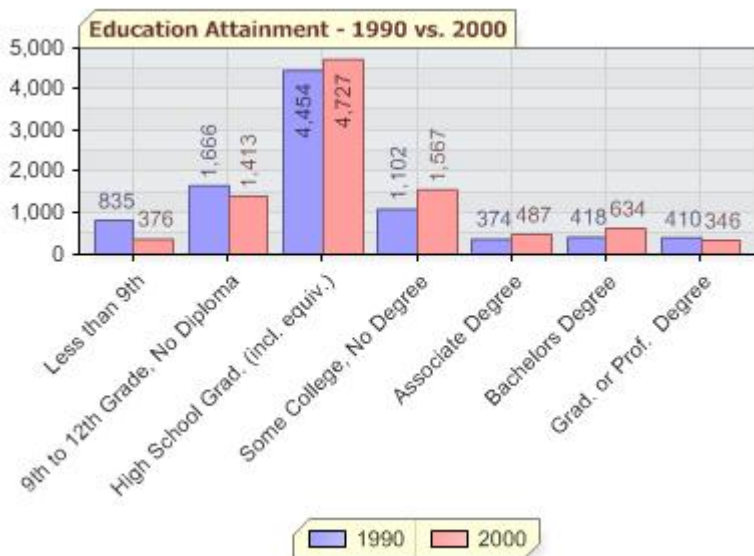
2007 Higher Education Intent



Source: Indiana Department of Education

## Educational Attainment in 1990 and 2000

	1990	Pct. of Pop. 25+	2000	Pct. of Pop. 25+
<b>Total Population 25+</b>	9,259	100.0%	9,550	100.0%
Less than 9th Grade	835	9.0%	376	3.9%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	1,666	18.0%	1,413	14.8%
High School Graduate (incl. equivalency)	4,454	48.1%	4,727	49.5%
Some College, No Degree	1,102	11.9%	1,567	16.4%
Associate Degree	374	4.0%	487	5.1%
Bachelors Degree	418	4.5%	634	6.6%
Graduate or Professional Degree	410	4.4%	346	3.6%

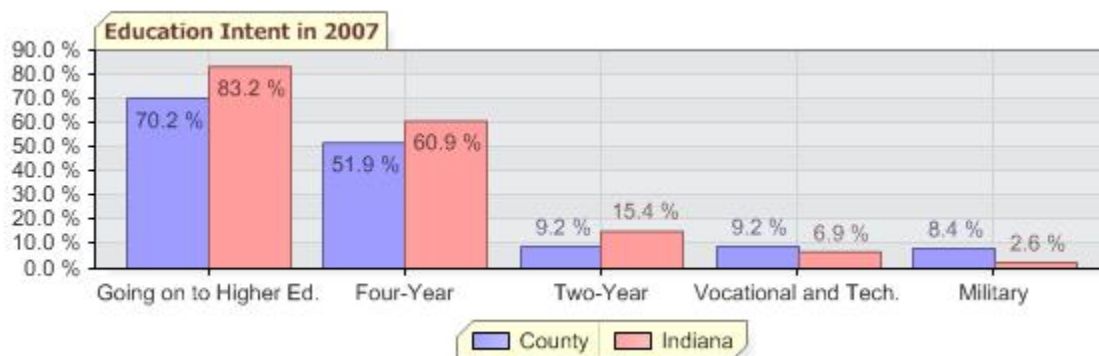


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## High School Graduates Higher Education Intent

	2007 Pct. Dist.	Indiana Pct. Dist.

<b>Graduates</b>	100.0%	100.0%
Total Going on to Higher Education	70.2%	83.2%
Four-Year Institution	51.9%	60.9%
Two-Year Institution	9.2%	15.4%
Vocational and Tech.	9.2%	6.9%
Military	8.4%	2.6%



Source: Indiana Department of Education

## Commuting

In Indiana, most workers commute to a job, either within their home county or beyond. Patterns of commuting are significant in showing the labor supply. The county *labor force* represents workers who reside in the county no matter where they work. Two types of commuting patterns are provided here - the Census 2000 *benchmark* and the annual data tabulated from state income tax returns that can help provide a more current view.

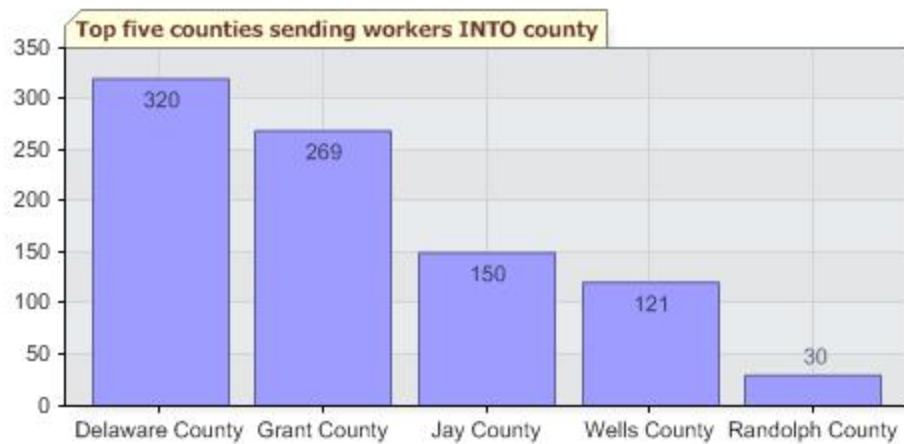
### Commuting Data, 2007

	Number
Number of tax filers who live in county and work	9,076
Number of tax filers who work in the county	7,424
Number of tax filers who live in county and work in county	6,287
Number of tax filers who live out of the county and work in county	1,137

Source: Indiana Department of Revenue

### Commuting Patterns: Top five counties sending workers INTO county, 2007

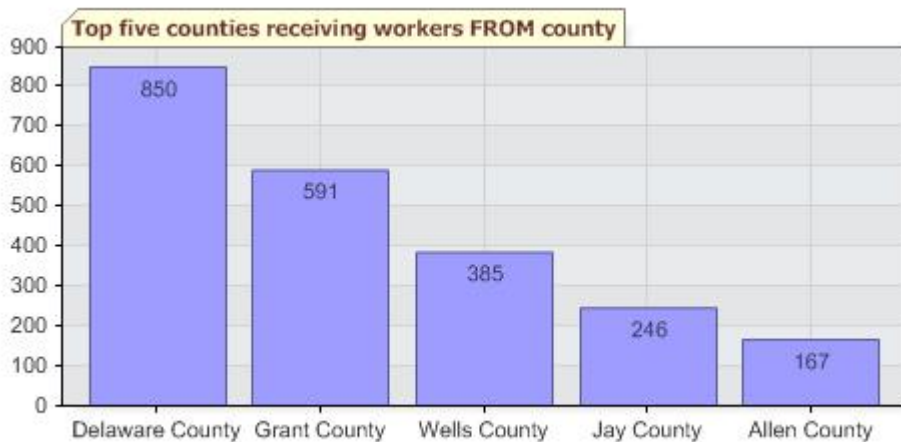
County	Number	Pct. Five County Total
Delaware County	320	34.3%
Grant County	269	28.8%
Jay County	150	16.1%
Wells County	121	13.0%
Randolph County	30	2.7%



Source: Indiana Department of Revenue

### Commuting Patterns: Top five counties receiving workers FROM county, 2007

County	Number	Pct. Five County Total
Delaware County	850	38.0%
Grant County	591	26.4%
Wells County	385	17.2%
Jay County	246	11.0%
Allen County	167	7.5%



Source: Indiana Department of Revenue

### Travel To Work in 2000

	Number	Pct. Dist
<b>Total Workers Age 16 and Over</b>	6,569	100.0%
Travel To Work	6,310	96.1%
Car, Truck, or Van	6,141	93.5%
Traveled Alone	5,429	82.6%
Carpooled	712	10.8%
Used Public Transportation	19	0.3%
Motorcycle, Bicycle, Walked, Other	150	2.3%
Worked At Home	259	3.9%
<b>Average Travel Time (Minutes)</b>	23.4	
<b>Average Travel Time using Public Transportation (Minutes)</b>	36.3	

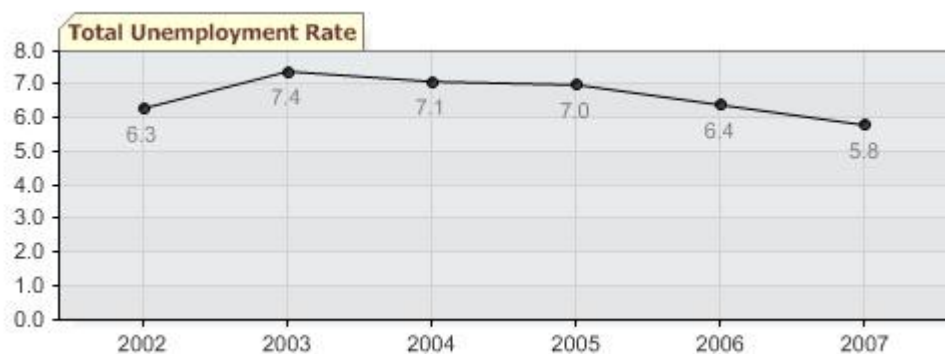


# Labor Force

An area's labor force provides insight on the availability factor and is residence-based - that is, the people are working or seeking work and reside in the particular county or region.

## Annual Labor Force Estimates in 2007

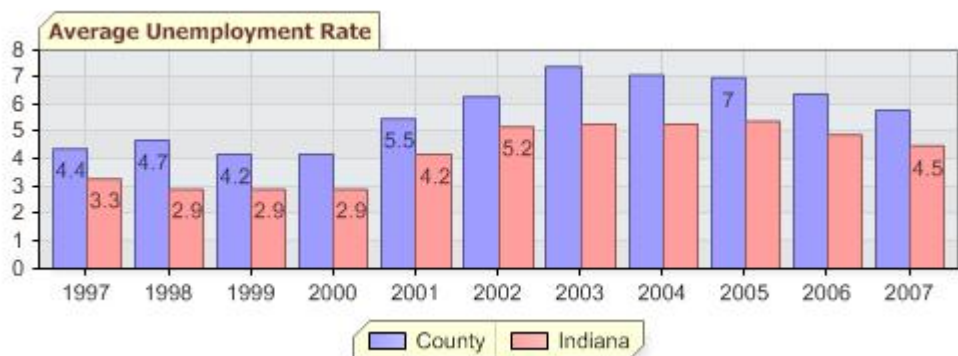
	Number	Pct. Chg. from 2000
<b>Labor Force</b>	6,577	-6.9%
<b>Employed</b>	6,198	-8.5%
<b>Unemployed</b>	379	28.9%
<b>Rate</b>	5.8	38.1%



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Labor Force Estimates

	Labor Force	Emp.	Unemp.	Cnty. Rate	State Rate
<b>1997</b>	6,572	6,284	288	4.4	3.3
<b>1998</b>	6,610	6,302	308	4.7	2.9
<b>1999</b>	6,513	6,240	273	4.2	2.9
<b>2000</b>	7,065	6,771	294	4.2	2.9
<b>2001</b>	7,093	6,704	389	5.5	4.2
<b>2002</b>	7,008	6,568	440	6.3	5.2
<b>2003</b>	6,880	6,370	510	7.4	5.3
<b>2004</b>	6,724	6,249	475	7.1	5.3
<b>2005</b>	6,804	6,327	477	7.0	5.4
<b>2006</b>	6,715	6,283	432	6.4	4.9
<b>2007</b>	6,577	6,198	379	5.8	4.5



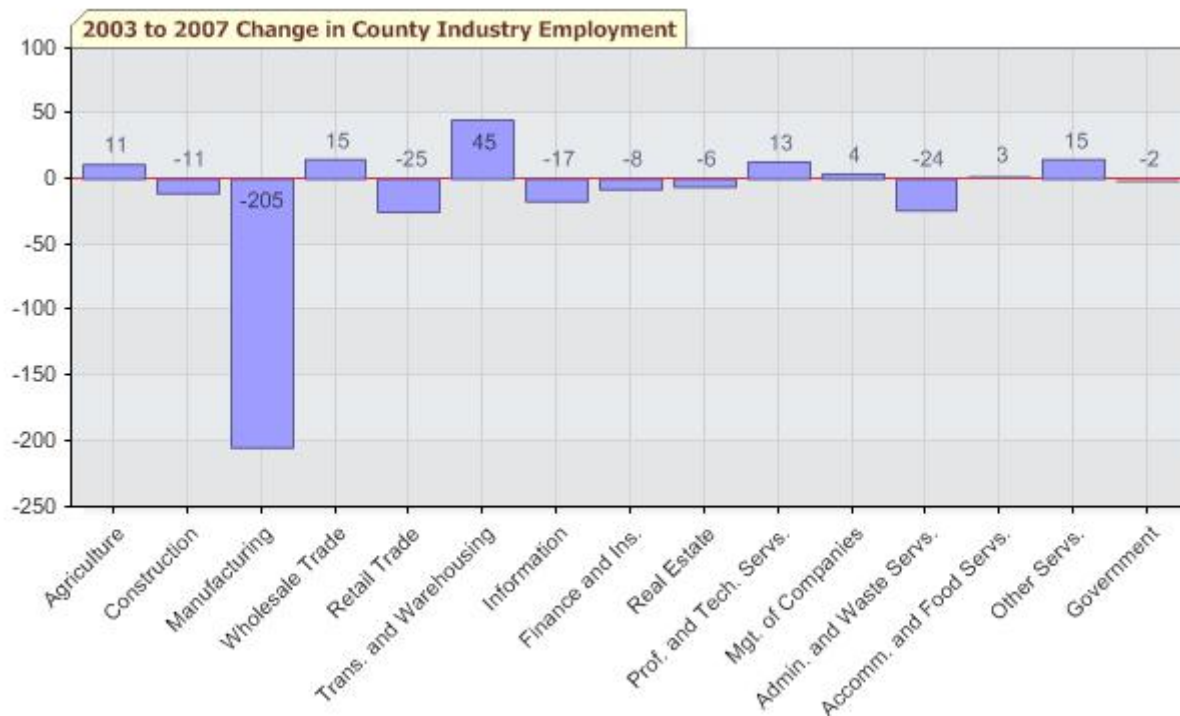
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

# Employment

Industry employment is tabulated as jobs by place-of-work. Keep in mind that people may hold multiple jobs and that each job is counted by its industry.

## Average Employment by Sector

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Change 2003-2007	% Change 2003-2007
<b>Total Employment</b>	4,099	4,011	4,058	3,952	3,911	-188	-4.59%
<b>Total Private Employment</b>	3,451	3,366	3,409	3,298	3,265	-186	-5.39%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunt	30	29	39	40	41	11	36.67%
Mining	D	D	D	D	D	N/A	N/A
Construction	76	56	64	64	65	-11	-14.47%
Manufacturing	1,728	1,636	1,600	1,523	1,523	-205	-11.86%
Wholesale Trade	95	100	135	103	110	15	15.79%
Retail Trade	480	472	469	463	455	-25	-5.21%
Transport. and Warehousing	76	96	125	131	121	45	59.21%
Utilities	D	D	D	D	D	N/A	N/A
Information	32	34	16	14	15	-17	-53.13%
Finance and Insurance	124	122	129	123	116	-8	-6.45%
Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	28	31	22	23	22	-6	-21.43%
Professional and Tech. Servs.	38	39	38	50	51	13	34.21%
Mgmt. of Companies	16	18	18	19	20	4	25.00%
Admin. and Waste Services	38	26	23	20	14	-24	-63.16%
Educational Services	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
Health Care and Social Assistance	362	359	371	362	366	N/A	N/A
Arts, Entertain., and Recreation	D	D	D	19	15	N/A	N/A
Accommodation and Food Service	226	239	241	234	229	3	1.33%
Other Services	71	84	92	92	86	15	21.13%
<b>Federal, State, &amp; Local Govt.</b>	648	645	649	654	646	-2	-0.31%

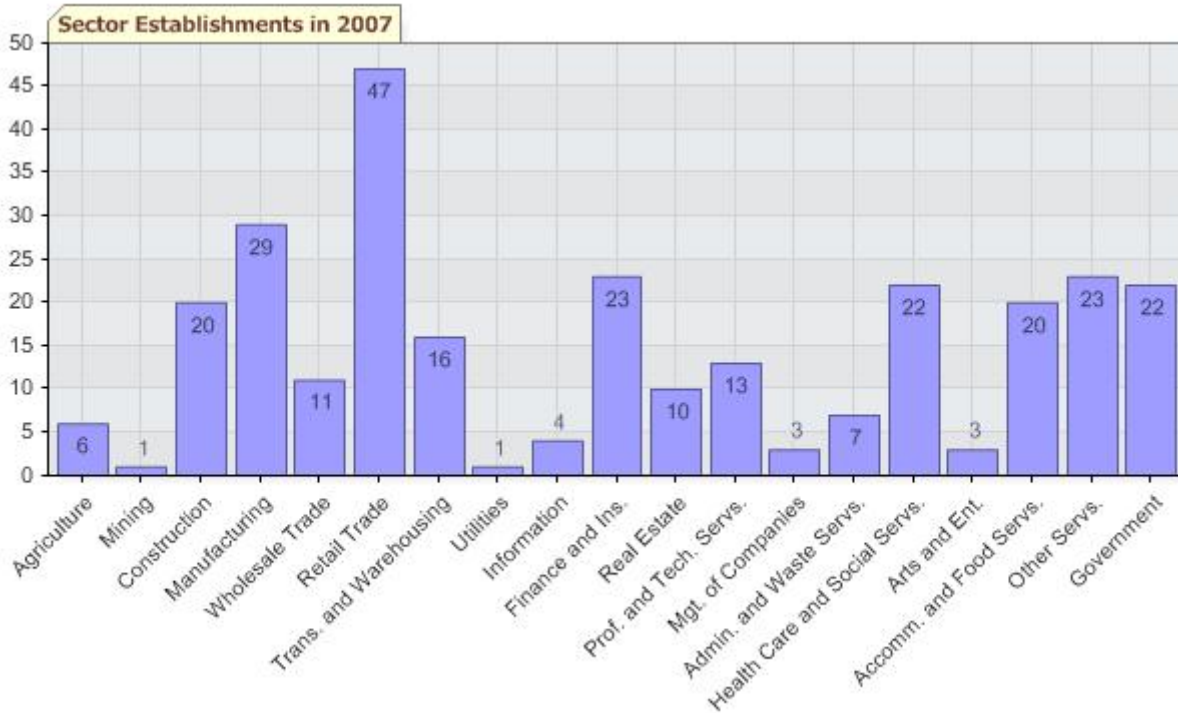


Note: D = non-discloseable in compliance with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and/or State of Indiana confidentiality guidelines. Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, as of January 29, 2009

## Establishments by Sector

Change % Change

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003-2007	2003-2007
<b>Total Establishments</b>	278	282	288	280	279	1	0.36%
<b>Total Private Establishments</b>	257	261	266	257	257	0	0.00%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunt	5	4	6	6	6	1	20.00%
Mining	D	D	D	D	D	N/A	N/A
Construction	20	21	20	19	20	0	0.00%
Manufacturing	31	30	29	30	29	-2	-6.45%
Wholesale Trade	10	10	13	11	11	1	10.00%
Retail Trade	48	50	51	50	47	-1	-2.08%
Transport. and Warehousing	14	16	16	16	16	2	14.29%
Utilities	D	D	D	D	D	N/A	N/A
Information	5	6	5	4	4	-1	-20.00%
Finance and Insurance	20	20	20	20	23	3	15.00%
Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	12	12	11	9	10	-2	-16.67%
Professional and Tech. Servs.	15	14	13	14	13	-2	-13.33%
Mgmt. of Companies	3	3	3	3	3	0	0.00%
Admin. and Waste Services	6	7	6	6	7	1	16.67%
Educational Services	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
Health Care and Social Assistance	21	21	23	21	22	1	4.76%
Arts, Entertain., and Recreation	D	D	D	3	3	N/A	N/A
Accommodation and Food Service	20	20	20	21	20	0	0.00%
Other Services	25	25	25	24	23	-2	-8.00%
<b>Federal, State, &amp; Local Govt.</b>	21	21	22	23	22	1	4.76%



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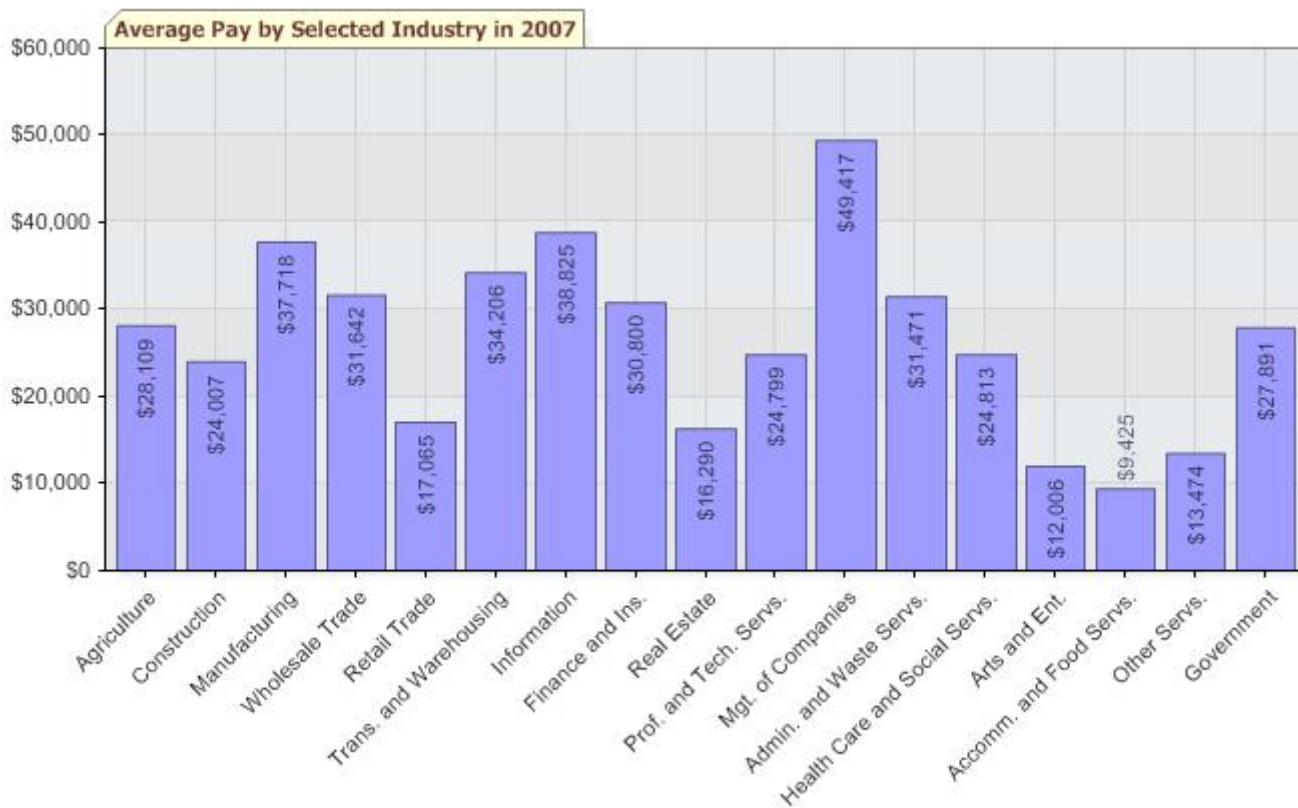
## Earnings and Income

Industry employment is tabulated as jobs by place-of-work. Keep in mind that people may hold multiple jobs and that each job is counted by its industry. Note: The income figures and changes are not adjusted for inflation.

### Average Annual Earnings by Industry

Change	% Change	Indiana	% of
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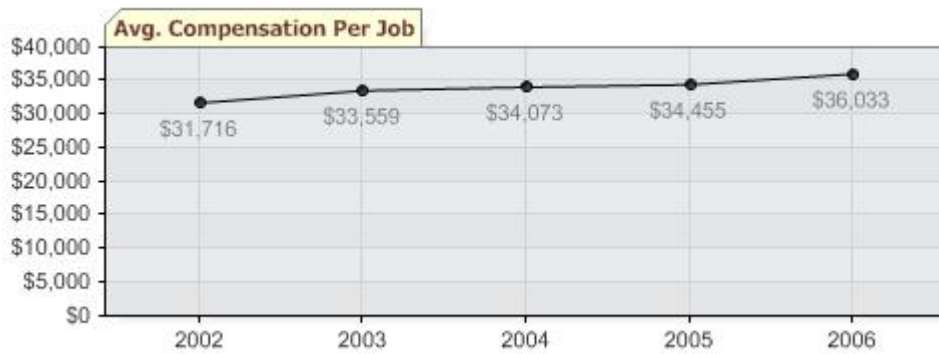
	2003	2007	2003-2007	2003-2007	2007	State
All Industries	\$26,548	\$29,215	\$2,667	10.0%	\$37,530	77.8%
Ag., For., Fishing, & Hunt.	\$28,125	\$28,109	-\$16	-0.1%	\$28,008	100.4%
Mining	D	D	N/A	N/A	\$57,315	N/A
Construction	\$27,546	\$24,007	-\$3,539	-12.8%	\$44,754	53.6%
Manufacturing	\$33,217	\$37,718	\$4,501	13.6%	\$51,148	73.7%
Wholesale Trade	\$22,732	\$31,642	\$8,910	39.2%	\$51,432	61.5%
Retail Trade	\$15,432	\$17,065	\$1,633	10.6%	\$22,581	75.6%
Trans. & Warehousing	\$28,058	\$34,206	\$6,148	21.9%	\$38,012	90.0%
Utilities	D	D	N/A	N/A	\$68,267	N/A
Information	\$19,441	\$38,825	\$19,384	99.7%	\$46,311	83.8%
Finance & Insurance	\$22,907	\$30,800	\$7,893	34.5%	\$52,649	58.5%
Real Est., Rent., Leasing	\$15,564	\$16,290	\$726	4.7%	\$32,614	49.9%
Prof. & Tech. Svcs.	\$20,645	\$24,799	\$4,154	20.1%	\$51,451	48.2%
Mgt.of Companies	\$51,851	\$49,417	-\$2,434	-4.7%	\$72,682	68.0%
Admin. & Waste Svcs.	\$28,136	\$31,471	\$3,335	11.9%	\$24,934	126.2%
Education Svcs.	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$31,029	N/A
Health Care & Social Assist.	\$24,846	\$24,813	-\$34	-0.1%	\$37,706	65.8%
Arts, Ent. & Rec.	D	\$12,006	N/A	N/A	\$29,251	41.0%
Accom. & Food Svcs.	\$9,160	\$9,425	\$265	2.9%	\$12,442	75.8%
Other Svcs.	\$13,107	\$13,474	\$367	2.8%	\$24,862	54.2%
Fed.I, State & Local Govt.	\$26,847	\$27,891	\$1,045	3.9%	\$37,054	75.3%



Note: D = non-discloseable in compliance with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and/or State of Indiana confidentiality guidelines. Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, as of January 29, 2009

### Average Compensation Per Job Over Time

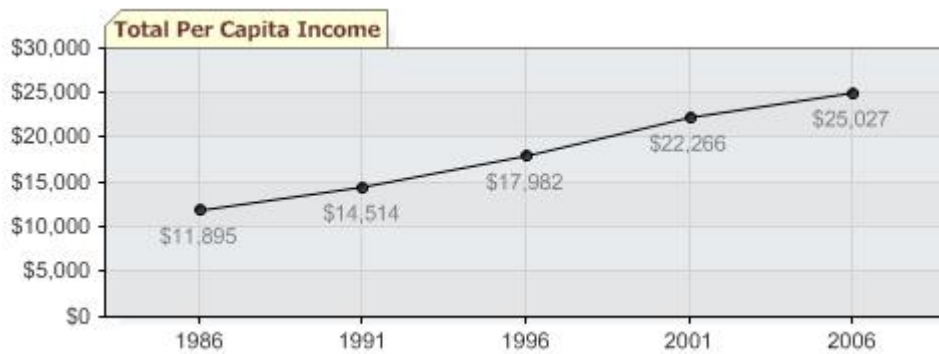
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Avg. Compensation per Job</b>	\$31,716	\$33,559	\$34,073	\$34,455	\$36,033
<b>Change Since 2002</b>		\$1,843	\$2,357	\$2,739	\$4,317
<b>Pct. Change Since 2002</b>		5.8%	7.4%	8.6%	13.6%



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

## Per Capita Income Over Time

	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006
<b>Total Per Capita Income</b>	\$11,895	\$14,514	\$17,982	\$22,266	\$25,027
<b>Change Since 1986</b>		\$2,619	\$6,087	\$10,371	\$13,132
<b>Pct. Change Since 1986</b>		22.0%	51.2%	87.2%	110.4%



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

## Income & Wage

	Number
<b>Median family income in 2007 (ACS)</b>	N/A
<b>Median household income in 2007 (ACS)</b>	N/A
<b>Average Wage Per Job in 2007 (BLS)</b>	\$29,224
<b>Wage Growth since 1997 (BLS)</b>	29.6%

Source: US Census Bureau & Bureau of Labor Statistics

# Firms and Employment by Size

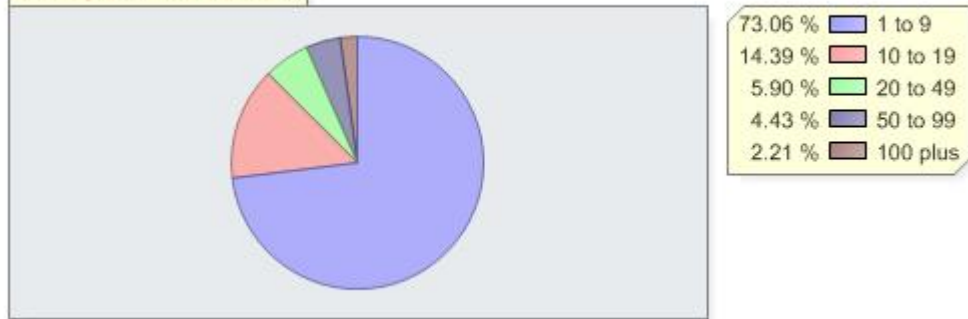
Firm data are available for most counties by the size of the firms and average employment by business unit size.

## County Business Patterns, 2006

	Establishments	Number Chg. 01 to 06	Pct.Chg. 01 to 06	Pct. of Total
<b>1-9 employees</b>	198	-18	-8.3%	73.1%
<b>10-19 employees</b>	39	4	11.4%	14.4%
<b>20-49 employees</b>	16	-6	-27.3%	5.9%

50-99 employees	12	7	140.0%	4.4%
100 plus employees	6	-3	-33.3%	2.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>-5.6%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

County Business Patterns

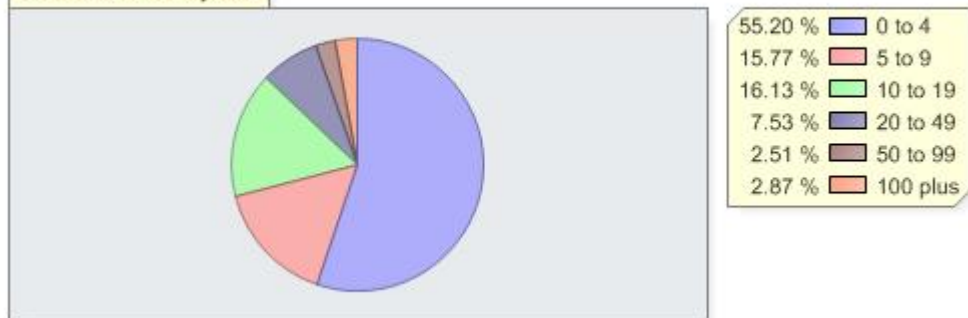


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Firms by Size, 2008:3

	Number of Business Units, 2008:2	Pct. of Total
0 to 4 employees	154	55.2%
5 to 9 employees	44	15.8%
10 to 19 employees	45	16.1%
20 to 49 employees	21	7.5%
50 to 99 employees	7	2.5%
100 plus employees	8	2.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Business Units by Size

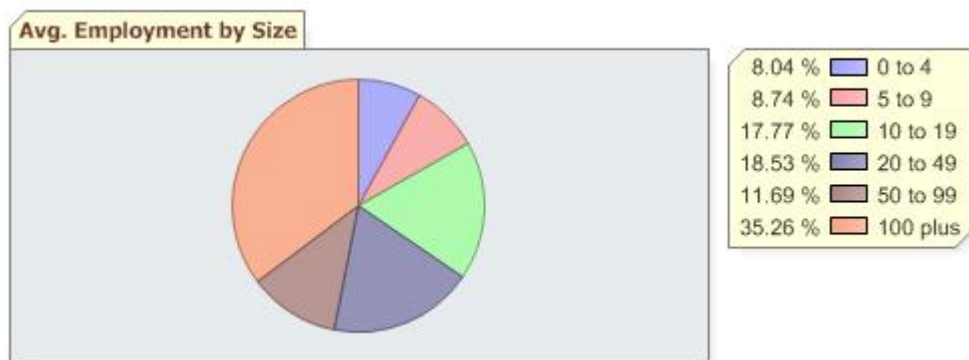


Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Covered Employment; Note: Business Units with zero employees and Federal Government Employees are included.

### Avg. Employment by Business Unit Size, 2008:3

	Avg. Employment, 2008:2	Pct. of Total
0 to 4 employees	284	8.0%
5 to 9 employees	309	8.7%
10 to 19 employees	628	17.8%
20 to 49 employees	655	18.5%
50 to 99 employees	413	11.7%
100 plus employees	1,246	35.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,534</b>	<b>100.0%</b>





Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Covered Employment; Note: Business Units with zero employees and Federal Government Employees are included.